

Message Text

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ATTN PARIS FOR JOHNSTONE

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TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

HUA AND SHAH HELD 90 MINS OF TALKS WEDS; GOI SOURCES SAID
ISSUE OF US-SOVIET RIVALRY IN PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN
OCEAN WAS UNDER DISCUSSION (WSJ). REUTER (SUN, TEHRAN)
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SAID 2 LEADERS MET ALONE FOR ABOUT 30 MINS, IN FURTHER HR
JOINED BY AIDES, INCL HUANG HUA AND IRANIAN COUNTERPART.
GOI COMMERCE MIN ALSO JOINED TALKS, INDICATING TRADE
WAS DISCUSSED. SO FAR, NO FRESH INDICATIONS THAT HUA'S
VISIT ANYTHING MORE THAN EFFORT TO IMPROVE BILAT TIES.
UPI (JOC, TEHRAN) CITES DIPLO SOURCES THAT THEY NOTICED
MUTUAL DESIRE BY CHINESE AND IRANIANS NOT OVERLY PROVOKE
SOVIETS. REUTER (TEHRAN) REPORTS PRC-IRANIAN FONMINS SIGNED
CULTURAL AGREEMENT THURS PROVIDING FOR EXCHANGES OF INFO/
PUBLICATIONS BETWN THEIR UNIVERSITIES/TRAINING INSTITUTES.

CHITRIB SERVICE REPORTS NEW MOVIE EPIC, "OPIUM WARS," PREMIERED IN NYC SUNDAY--1ST DRAMATIC FILM FROM PRC TO BE EXPORTED TO US. MADE IN EARLY '60S, FILM HAD BEEN BANNED BY "GANG OF 4," BUT WAS RECENTLY ALLOWED SHOWING IN CHINESE THEATERS (PHINQ).

2. CHINA/VIETNAM

VIET FONMIN OFFICIALS, QUOTED IN VNA DISPATCH, ACCUSE PRC OF ASSEMBLING FLEETS OF RAFTS READY SEND BACK TO VN TENS OF THOUSANDS ETHNIC CHINESE WHO HANOI HAS REFUSED ACCEPT (REUTER PARIS 8/30). WP (BANGKOK) SAYS "VOICE OF VN" REPORTED VIET FONMIN HAS ISSUED STATEMENTS PROTESTING BUILDUP OF CHINESE REFUGEES IN CHINESE TOWNS ON BORDER. JOC SAYS VIET FONMIN ACCUSING PRC OF "CRIMINAL ACTIONS" IN STIRRING REFUGEES TO VIOLENCE/FOR 1ST TIME USED WORD "FORMALLY" IN ITS WARNING.

3. VIETNAM/KAMPUCHEA

KAMPUCHEA CLAIMED THURS 2 VIET REGIMENTS "DESTROYED" IN CLASH IN SVAY RIENG THIS MONTH. IN RARE SPECIFIC REF TO UNCLASSIFIED

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FIGHTING, RADIO PP QUOTED VIET PRISONER FOR INFO. REUTER (BANGKOK) CITES THAI SOURCES WHO SAID CAMBODIAN GUERRILLAS OPPOSED TO PP GOVT/VIET FORCES TRYING CUT OFF ROADS N OF PARROT'S BEAK.

4. KAMPUCHEA/THAILAND

THAI/CAMBODIAN TROOPS CLASHED WEDS IN 5-HR BATTLE IN 1ST SERIOUS BORDER CLASH IN NEARLY MONTH. THAI FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID 6 THAI SOLDIERS DEAD/UNCLEAR WHO VIOLATED OTHER'S TERRITORY (CSM BANGKOK).

5. THAILAND

RTG HAS POSTPONED FOR 6 MOS DEADLINE FOR FON-OWNED MINING FIRMS TO BECOME MAJORITY THAI-OWNED, IN ORDER GIVE SUFFICIENT TIME SECURE PERMISSION FROM HOME GOVTS (UPI BANGKOK, JOC).

6. MALAYSIA

GOM-OWNED MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM TO BUY 3 AIRBUS INDUSTRIE A300B4-200 AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE PRESENT FLEET BOEING 707S. WILL TAKE DELIVERY FRENCH-W GERMAN PLANES END '79 (AP KL, WSJ).

7. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

DOWELL, TIME-LIFE NEWS SERVICE, SAYS PICTURE VIET REFUGEES PAINT OF VN DIFFERENT FROM WHAT MONTGOMERY CODEL SAW. HAD TALKS W/REFUGEES SETTLED IN FRANCE, WHICH, HE SAYS, RECEIVES ABOUT 1,000/MONTH, MOSTLY VIETS, BUT ALSO LAOTIANS/CAMBODIANS, AND HAS LARGEST COLONY OF VIETS IN

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WORLD. SAYS REFUGEES ESTIMATE ABOUT 800,000 PEOPLE CURRENTLY POL PRISONERS IN VN--ABOUT HALF IN RE-EDUCATION CAMPS. GLUT HAS STRETCHED FACILITIES SUCH AS SHI HOA PRISON IN HCM CITY WHICH HELD 8,000 PRISONERS UNDER THIEU REGIME/NOW HOLDS 40,000. NEW PRISONS, THEY SAID, PUT OLD TIGER CAGES TO SHAME. QUOTES REFUGEES THAT LIFE OUTSIDE OFTEN AS BAD W/CORRUPTION RAMPANT (WSTAR 8/30).

WP'S OBERDORFER CITES STORIES OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES WHICH, HE SAYS, COMPRISE KEY PART OF DOC ON HUMAN RTS SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA PRESENTED UNHRC BY DOS LAST MONTH. SAYS 14 REFUGEES PERMITTED USE OF THEIR NAMES WHILE 8 OTHERS DID NOT; ALL TELL SIMILAR HISTORY OF PRIVATION/OPPRESSION/TYRANNY/EXECUTION. QUOTES AMB VANDEN HEUVEL (UN-GENEVA) THAT IF KAMPUCHEA WON'T AGREE TO "NEUTRAL, RESPONSIBLE" INQUIRY OF ITS TERRITORY, THEN UNHCR SHOULD COLLECT EVIDENCE OF ITS OWN FROM CAMBODIAN REFUGEES.

8. PHILIPPINES

AVON PRODUCTS INC HAS ACQUIRED 2 FIRMS IN PHILS FOR MORE THAN 5 MIL DOLS, INCL "BEAUTIFONT INC," LARGEST COSMETICS DISTRIBUTOR IN PHILS (WSJ).

9. KOREA

UPI REPORTS DOD SOURCES SAID WEDS THAT DECISION ON WHERE PUT US TROOPS BEING W/DRAWN FROM SK, ORIGINALLY SET FOR THIS SUMMER, IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT BECAUSE OF FACTORS THAT INCL DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WHETHER SOME OF THEM SHOULD BE BASED IN SPKR O'NEILL'S HOME STATE. SOURCES SAID 1ST UNIT--750-MAN BATTLN OF 22ND INFANTRY DIVISION--IS SCHEDULED BE W/DRAWN BY DEC, WILL BE PUT AT TEMPORARY BASE UNTIL

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QUESTION RESOLVED.

10. JAPAN

JAL PRES SAID WEDS THAT EXISTING US-JAPAN AIR AGREEMENT IS "VERY UNEQUAL," DESPITE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED US AVIATION

POLICY THAT ADVOCATES INCREASED FREE COMPETITION. IN HK FOR CONF, SHIZUO ASADA SAID US AIRLINES HAVE MORE ROUTES BETWN US AND JAPAN THAN JAL/HAVE UNLIMITED RIGHTS FLY BEYOND JAPAN TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHEREAS JAPAN'S RIGHTS IN US ARE RESTRICTED. ACCUSED US OF ATTEMPTING DOMINATE NYT NEWS SERVICE REPORTS JAPANESE AUTO FIRMS--IN "IRONIC REVERSAL OF POLICY"--ARE BEGINNING IMPORT NEW GENERATION OF US-BUILT SMALL CARS, OUT OF CONCERN FOR GROWING PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN US (WSTAR 8/30).

GOJ ANNOUNCED TUES THAT JAPAN HAS AGREED TO EXTENSION UNTIL END THIS YR OF TRADE AGREEMENT TO REGULATE JAPANESE COTTON/ WORSTED/MANMADE FIBER EXPORTS TO US (JOC).

ITC DECIDED WEDS TO LAUNCH PROBE OF PRICING PRACTICES OF JAPANESE STEEL FABRICATORS IN US MRKT (JOC'S LAWRENCE).

IN TOKYO, FRG ECON MIN LAMBSDORFF THURS PLACED BLAME FOR DEPRECIATION OF DOL AGAINST OTHER CURRENCIES, ESPECIALLY WGERMAN MARK AND JAPANESE YEN, SQUARELY ON US DOORSTEP (REUTER TOKYO).

11. AUSTRALIA

GOA REJECTS AS "INOPPORTUNE" NIXON'S REQUEST TO VISIT IN SEPT. ACCORDING SOURCES, RMN APPROACHED AUSSIE EMB IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH ABOUT TRIP/WAS TOLD WEDS GOA HAD TURNED DOWN VISIT BECAUSE OF HEAVY PROGRAM OF OFFICIAL VISITS FROM OTHER DIGNATARIES. REUTER (CANBERRA) NOTES TRIP WOULD HAVE BEEN CLASSED AS "OFFICIAL," SINCE NIXON UNCLASSIFIED

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ASKED FOR MTGS W/PM/FONMIN. WHILE GOA CONSULTED CARTER ADMIN ABOUT VISIT, SOURCES SAID PRES CARTER WASN'T CONCERNED EITHER WAY. AUSSIE EMB SAID NIXON COULD STILL VISIT AS TOURIST (ALSO CARRIED WP/SUN).

BURMAH OIL AUSSIE LTD SELLING BURMAH AUSSIE EXPLORATION PTY FOR 41 MIL DOLS TO GROUP AUSSIE FIRMS (WSJ).

IN 2ND OF 3 ARTICLES, JOC'S STOVE (SYDNEY) SAYS WHILE AUSSIE TRUCKING INDUSTRY OPERATES FREE FROM RESTRICTIONS WHICH OPERATE IN US, IT NOT NECESSARILY MORE PROSPEROUS/ EFFICIENT. NOTES THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT OF US ICC, THEREFORE FEW STATISTICS AVAILABLE. SAYS MOST RESTRICTIONS LEVIED BY VARIOUS STATE GOVTS.

IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, STOVE (SYDNEY) SAYS GOA ANNOYED, BUT RELIEVED, THAT CONTINENTAL AIRLINES WILL NOT SOON START TRANS-PAC FLIGHTS. ANNOYANCE COMES AT YR LOST IN FARE REDUCTION DISCUSSIONS WHILE CONTINENTAL'S ENTRY INTO MRKT REMAINED THREAT TO PROFITABILITY.

12. PACIFIC ISLANDS

ACCORDING LAT'S HILLINGER (NUKU'ALOFA), JOHN MEIER, US FUGITIVE/ONETIME HOWARD HUGHES AIDE, HAS EST BANK IN TONGA/PLANS TO TURN ISL INTO TOURIST RESORT. SAYS BANK OF S PAC ALREADY HAS SET UP FIRM THAT BEGAN CONSTRUCTION LAST MONTH OF "MAJOR" INTL AIRPORT ON OUTSKIRTS NUKU'ALOFA. FOLLOWING AIRPORT, WILL BE DEVL AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK/BLDG LARGE RESORT HOTEL--W/SOURCE OF FUNDS BEING KEPT "PRIVATE." SAYS UNDER TONGAN LAW, BANK MUST HAVE INITIAL SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL OF 1 MIL DOLS, THAT PROJECT WOULD BE BIGGEST INVESTMENT IN TONGA HISTORY. WHEN CONCERN EXPRESSED UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT TONGA DEALINGS W/REFUGEE FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE, TONGAN MONARCH REPLIED MEIER IS WILLING HELP TONGA IN WAY NOBODY ELSE IS.

13. GENERAL

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES HAS ASKED BE INCLUDED IN TRANS-PAC LOW-FARE ROUTE INVESTIGATION/ASKED CONSIDERATION BE EXPANDED TO INCL INDO/MALAYSIA. UPI (JOC) SAYS INVESTIGATION INCL ROUTES BETWN US/HK, SK, ROC, SINGAPORE, JAPAN, PHILS, OKINAWA, THAILAND, SRI LANKA, INDIA AND WILL LOOK INTO NEEDS OF AIR SERVICE FROM GUAM TO US/PAC POINTS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

14. VIETNAM

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT (8/15) SEES CHANGE IN SRV'S ATTITUDE TOWARD US, ESP IN RELEASE OF FAMILIES LEFT IN VN BY AMCITS. IN VIEW OF COUNTRY'S LACK OF FON EXCHANGE, NOTES SRV HAS CEASED BARGAINING W/US/APPROACHES AS SUPPLICANT.

COMMENTING ON VN VISIT BY MONTGOMERY CODEL, ATLANTA JOURNAL (8/24) NOTES VIET FARMERS JUST HAPPENED "FIND" REMAINS OF 11 MIAS. SAYS, "SURELY NO ONE IS DECEIVED BY THIS DESPICABLE USE OF DEAD MEN AS PAWNS IN A GAME OF INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE-DEALING"; "HOW UNSUBTLE THEY ARE, AND HOW FOOLISH." THINKS GAME HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH, THAT IF WE QUIT SENDING DELS OF "GULLIBLE" CONGRESSMEN/STUDY MISSIONS, SRV LEADERS WILL HAVE GIVE US MIAS THEY ARE HOLDING HOSTAGE/DEAL W/US ON HONEST BASIS.

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION (8/26) SAYS CODEL RESULTED IN "SOME PROGRESS" IN STRUGGLE TO DISCOVER FATE OF AMERICAN MIAS. WITH EACH VISIT, SAYS THERE IS HOPE ONE DAY SUCH TRIPS WILL UNCLASSIFIED

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NO LONGER BE NECESSARY/VIETS WILL RELEASE COMPREHENSIVE

LIST OF ALL CAPTURED AMERICANS.

OMAHA WORLD HERALD (8/27) COMMENTS ON LONDON TELEGRAPH REPORT THAT VIETS HAVE RE-OPENED TIGER CAGES OF CON SON ISL/ IMPRISONED INTELLECTUALS/FORMER SVN MEMBERS OF PROF CLASSES IN THEM. SAYS IS AWAITING PROTEST FROM LIBERAL, HUMANITARIAN SOURCES WHICH WOULD LIVE UP TO STANDARDS OF OUTRAGE SET DURING THIEU ADMIN.

JOHN CROWN (ATLANTA JOURNAL 8/12) ADDRESSES US TAXPAYERS "WHO SHOULD BE HAPPY" THAT TAX MONEY BEING FUNNELED INTO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VN. AT LEAST, HE SAYS, MONEY BEING GIVEN MAY BRING QUESTION OF US SUPPORT FOR WB INTO FOCUS AGAIN. SAYS ADMONITIONS OF RBT MCNAMARA THAT WB COULD NOT ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS W/STRINGS ATTACHED NOT BAD IDEA--"WE COULD SAVE A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY BY BEING REFUSED BY THE WORLD BANK." ADDS, MAYBE FACT THAT BANK THUMBED ITS NOSE AT US EVEN WHILE FON AID BILL BEING CONSIDERED WILL NOT BE LOST ON SOME HOUSE MEMBERS. BLAMES "WHOLE THING" ON MCNAMARA--INCL DEFEAT IN VN.

OMAHA WORLD HERALD (8/27) IS APPALLED AT ABILITY SRV SELL LARGE QUANTITIES MUNITIONS/EQUIPMENT LEFT BEHIND BY AMERICANS TO UNDERGROUND ARMS MRKT THAT OPERATES IN 3RD WORLD. SAYS SRV HAS MUCH MORE EQUIP THAN IT COULD EVER USE AND REPLACEMENT PARTS DIFFICULT COME BY, SO SRV MEETING ITS NEED FOR HARD CASH. IN VIEW OF VIET REQUEST FOR US AID, SAYS US MUST NOT OVERLOOK FACT SRV IN POSITION TO REAP BILLIONS FROM ITS HARVEST OF ABANDONED US ARMS.

EVEN MOST ADAMANT CRITICS OF VN MUST BE ABLE SEE BY NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE IS LITTLE BE GAINED BY CONTINUED US REFUSAL NORMALIZE RELS W/VN, SAYS ST LOUIS P-D (8/11). OPINES ADMIN WISE TO DELAY TALKS UNTIL AFTER LEGISLATION ON FON AID. SAYS RELS WOULD OPEN UP OIL EXPLORATION, TRADE, CHANCE FOR US PLAY MORE INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN SEASIA AFFAIRS.

CHICAGO SUN TIMES (8/11) OBSERVES US-SRV FULL DIPLO RELS MIGHT NOT COME SOON, BUT US SHOULD TAKE CHANCE FOR WIDER COOP W/VN. CITES OIL/REDUCED THREATS TO THAILAND/ NEIGHBORS AS US INTERESTS TO BE SERVED BY CLOSER TIES. THANKS SEN PERCY (R-ILL) FOR RELEASE WIFE OF CHICAGO AMCIT.

WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT 3 YRS AFTER US COLLAPSE IN VN,

VICTORIOUS COMMUNISTS WOULD BE PLEADING FOR POL/ECON TIES W/US, WP EDIT ASKS. SAYS ANSWER IS PLAIN ENOUGH: MOVING FROM WAR W/KAMPUCHEA TO FRICTION W/PRC, SRV FINDS SOVIET SUPPORT "ARDENT BUT INADEQUATE"/HOPES US WILL

PLUG GAP. CONTENTS MANY AMERICANS SEE GOOD REASON TO RESPOND TO VIET OVERTURES: SOME TO MAKE AMENDS FOR PAST; OTHERS TO CULTIVATE NATL COMMUNISTS OF WORLD; OTHERS TO "MAKE A BUCK." THINKS CARTER ADMIN HOLDING BACK W/ GOOD REASON, SINCE EARLY NORMALIZATION WOULD PROVOKE POL RESENTMENTS W/O DUE DIPLO COMPENSATION AND WOULD COMPLICATE US/PRC RELS. GIVES SUPPORT FOR WAY ADMIN HANDLING AFFAIRS W/PRC, WHICH MUST BE MANAGED W/CARE, WHILE OBSERVING US HAS NO INTERESTS IN HANOI EVEN FAINTLY OF ORDER W/THOSE IN PEKING--REASON ENOUGH TO "TREAD WATER" ON VN WHILE CHINESE QUESTION WORKED OUT.

15. KAMPUCHEA

CSM SAYS ACCOUNTS OF REFUGEES FLEEING KILLINGS/DEPRIVATIONS FORCED ON CAMBODIAN POP ARE TOO MANY/TOO CONSISTENT TO BE DISMISSED. NOTES NO SUCH THING AS LIGHT PUNISHMENT: UNCLASSIFIED

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CAMBODIANS ARE EITHER WARNED OR KILLED. OBSERVES THOSE THAT SURVIVE ARE FORCED ENDURE KIND OF NAZI-LIKE TREATMENT THAT CAN ONLY BE ABHORRED/DENOUNCED BY "FREEDOM-LOVING, DECENT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE." IN SPITE OF REPORTS, OPINES DOS WISE IN POINTING OUT FUTILITY OF TRYING "QUICK JUDO CHOP" AGAINST REGIME. INSTEAD, SAYS UNHRC SHOULD BE MADE FOCUS ON CONDITIONS IN KAMPUCHEA/PRESSURE OF WORLD OPINION OUGHT NOT LET UP.

WSJ COMMENTS ON OBSERVATIONS MADE ON ITS RECENT EDIT DENOUNCING SEN MCGOVERN'S CALL FOR INTL MIL EFFORT TO END CONDITIONS IN KAMPUCHEA. NOTES NBC-TV'S PAULEY FOUND ITS POSITION "STRANGE"; WP CALLED IT "INCITEMENT" TO AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE TO "GENUINEL HORRIBLE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION."

WSJ SAYS IT'S PUZZLED WHY WP SHOULD GET SO MAD AT IDEA THAT SOME PEOPLE'S ANALYSES MORE TRUSTWORTHY THAN OTHERS. CONTENTS IT'S NOT NEW/STARTLING TO OBSERVE THAT GROWTH OF US VIET COMMITMENT HAD ROOTS IN LIBERAL INTLISM THAT FLOURISHED AFTER WWII; NOR IS IT SECRET THAT AS '60S WORE ON, IT WAS LIBERALS WHO 1ST BECAME REPELLED BY CONTINUING US ALLIES' "MORAL FAILINGS" IN INDOCHINA. OPINES PROGRESS OF THESE ENTHUSIASMS/REVULSIONS CREATED ALMOST UNPARALLELED DISASTER FOR US ON BATTLEFIELD, IN EYES OF OTHER NATIONS, FOR US DOMESTIC POLITICS--AND US W/DRAWAL FROM INDOCHINA "HAS BY NO MEANS PURGED SUCH ATTITUDES FROM OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

WSJ CONCLUDES CAMBODIAN ISSUE NOT QUESTION OF HOW BAD
SLAUGHTER IS/WHAT US CAN DO ABOUT IT, BUT ABOUT HOW US GOT
TO SUCH HORRIBLE PAST/HOW TO AVOID DOING SUCH THING

AGAIN. CALLS PROCESS "INSURING POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY."
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SAN DIEGO UNION (8/6) COMPARES CAMBODIAN HOLOCAUST TO THAT
OF NAZIS, SAYS WORLD CANNOT CLAIM IGNORANCE OF CAMBODIAN
ATROCITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN POORLY CONCEALED/ARE STILL BEING
COMMITTED. NOTES THERE IS NO ALLIANCE OF "RIGHT-THINKING
NATIONS" FORMING TO CHALLENGE THIS NEW OUTBREAK OF
BARBARISM, THAT NONALIGNED NATIONS MORE WORRIED ABOUT US
IMPERIALISM THAN CAMBODIAN EXECUTIONERS. CONTENTS 3RD
WORLD GOVTS ARE CHIEF OBSTACLES TO INTL EFFORT TO ISOLATE/
DISCREDIT KR/IF WORLD TO BEAR ANY COLLECTIVE GUILT, IT'S
OBVIOUS WHERE MOST OF IT WILL LIE.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH (8/23) THINKS IT STRANGE SEN
MCGOVERN WAITED 3 1/2 YRS BEFORE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER
CAMBODIAN HORRORS/THAT HE COUPLED CALL FOR CRACKDOWN ON
KAMPUCHEA W/SUPPORT FOR NORMALIZATION W/VN. SAYS HE SEEMS
BE SUGGESTING US TAKE SIDES BETWN 2/NOTES MCGOVERN DID NOT
SUGGEST SPONSOR FOR PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. OBSERVES THAT
PERHAPS BEHIND IDEA IS SUBLIMINAL RECOGNITION BY SEN THAT
HASTY RETREAT HE ADVOCATED FOR US MIL PRESENCE IN SEASIA
HELPED SET STAGE FOR BLOODBATH IN KAMPUCHEA.

ATLANTA JOURNAL (8/28) SAYS, WHILE SLAUGHTER IN KAMPUCHEA
RIVALS ANYTHING HITLER/STALIN DID, THERE IS NOTHING ANYONE
CAN DO ABOUT IT--VIET WAR PROVED THAT POWERFUL ARMIES POOR
MATCH FOR HIGHLY TRAINED GUERRILLAS. CHRISTOPHER

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